

CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:

generating, at a headend of a broadband content distribution network, a plurality of frame sequences of graphics and video to form a plurality of interactive program guide user interfaces;

encoding, by a plurality of real-time MPEG encoders and an audio encoder at the headend, the plurality of interactive program guide user interfaces to each include an identifier for uniquely identifying each of the plurality of interactive program guide user interfaces such that the encoder produces a MPEG compliant bitstream;

modulating, at a headend, the plurality of encoded interactive program guide user interfaces using quadrature amplitude modulation to produce an interactive program guide stream;

combining, at the headend, the interactive program guide stream and a bit stream for audio and video of a broadcast video program to form one or more transport streams for broadcast to all subscribers in the broadband content distribution network;

continuously transmitting the one or more transport streams to a plurality of set top terminals of all subscribers in the broadband content distribution network via an in-band channel of the broadband content distribution network;

in response to a selection signal providing an identifier to a first set top terminal of the plurality of set top terminals for identifying one of the plurality of interactive program guide user

interfaces, extracting, at a set-top terminal, a selected interactive program guide user interface associated with the identifier for immediate presentation on a viewer's equipment;

determining, at the first set-top terminal, a view action of moving a cursor to a lookahead time interval within the selected interactive program guide user interface presented on the viewer's equipment;

in response to the determined view action, sending a request from the first set-top terminal to a session manager at the headend via a bi-directional out-of-band channel of the broadband content distribution network for an interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action;

retrieving, at the headend, the interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action;

combining, at the headend, the interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action and a bit stream for audio and video of a broadcast video program to form a determined transport stream; and

transmitting the determined transport stream to the first set top terminal for extraction, at the first set-top terminal, the interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action is presented in the selected interactive program guide user interface on the viewer's equipment.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:

changing the particular broadcast video display to a new broadcast video display, upon termination of a navigation command;

wherein changing the particular broadcast video display is accomplished by generating, encoding, and transmitting video packet streams at the headend.

17. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the navigation command navigates only through favorite channels.

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the interactive program guide user interface is overlaid the broadcast video presentation in response to a signal to activate the interactive program guide user interface.

19. (New) A system, comprising:

a microprocessor; and

a memory that includes software, which when executed by the microprocessor, cause the system to:

generate, at a headend of a broadband content distribution network, a plurality of frame sequences of graphics and video to form a plurality of interactive program guide user interfaces;

encode, by a plurality of real-time MPEG encoders and an audio encoder at the headend, the plurality of interactive program guide user interfaces to each include an identifier for uniquely identifying each of the plurality of interactive program guide user interfaces such that the encoder produces a MPEG compliant bitstream;

modulate, at a headend, the plurality of encoded interactive program guide user interfaces using quadrature amplitude modulation to produce an interactive program guide stream;

combine, at the headend, the interactive program guide stream and a bit stream for audio and video of a broadcast video program to form one or more transport streams for broadcast to all subscribers in the broadband content distribution network;

continuously transmit the one or more transport streams to a plurality of set top terminals of all subscribers in the broadband content distribution network via an in-band channel of the broadband content distribution network;

in response to a selection signal providing an identifier to a first set top terminal of the plurality of set top terminals for identifying one of the plurality of interactive

program guide user interfaces, extract, at a set-top terminal, a selected interactive program guide user interface associated with the identifier for immediate presentation on a viewer's equipment;

determine, at the first set-top terminal, a view action of moving a cursor to a lookahead time interval within the selected interactive program guide user interface presented on the viewer's equipment;

in response to the determined view action, send a request from the first set-top terminal to a session manager at the headend via a bi-directional out-of-band channel of the broadband content distribution network for an interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action;

retrieve, at the headend, the interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action;

combine, at the headend, the interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action and a bit stream for audio and video of a broadcast video program to form a determined transport stream; and

transmit the determined transport stream to the first set top terminal for extraction, at the first set-top terminal, the interactive program guide page corresponding to the determined view action is presented in the selected interactive program guide user interface on the viewer's equipment.

20. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the microprocessor, further causes the system to

change the particular broadcast video display to a new broadcast video display, upon termination of a navigation command;

wherein changing the particular broadcast video display is accomplished by generating, encoding, and transmitting video packet streams at the headend.

21. (New) The system of claim 20, wherein the navigation command navigates only through favorite channels.

22. (New) The system of claim 19, wherein the interactive program guide user interface is overlaid the broadcast video presentation in response to a signal to activate the interactive program guide user interface.